Amendments to the Specification:

Applicants amend the specification by adding the following "Summary of the Invention" section on page 1, line 20, as follows:

Summary of the Invention

In one embodiment of the invention, a method comprises partitioning a database corresponding to object images into a first partition and a second partition based on a fuzzy similarity analysis of a measure of the object images to a first threshold. The method also includes partitioning the first partition and the second partition into at least two portions so that the measure of the object images having a fuzzy similarity more than or equal to a second threshold cluster into a selected one of the at least two portions. In addition, the method may include determining a feature set from image content of a query object image. Furthermore, the method may include, after partitioning the first partition into at least two portions, using fuzzy logic to search the database for at least one image similar to the query object image. The method may also include outputting the image similar to the query object image.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the method may comprise partitioning a database corresponding to object images into a plurality of sets based on fuzzy logic. The method may further include obtaining a query image and, after partitioning the database into a plurality of sets, searching the database for a solution set having a maximum similarity to the query image using the fuzzy logic. Finally, the method may include outputting a portion of the solution set.

In another embodiment of the invention, an article may comprise a machine-readable storage medium that contains instructions that when executed, enable a system to partition a database corresponding to object images into a plurality of sets based on fuzzy logic. Further instructions may enable the system to obtain a query image and, after the database is partitioned, search the database for a solution set having a maximum similarity to the query image using the fuzzy logic. Furthermore, the instructions may enable the system to output a portion of the solution set.

In still another embodiment of the invention, a system may comprise a dynamic random access memory containing instructions that when executed, enable the system to partition a

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database corresponding to object images into a first partition and a second partition based on a fuzzy similarity analysis of a measure of the object images to a first threshold. In addition, the random access memory may contain instructions that, afterwards, enable the system to use fuzzy logic to search the database for at least one image similar to a query object image. Furthermore, the memory may contain instructions to output the image that is similar to the query object. Finally, the system may have a processor coupled to the dynamic random access memory to execute the instructions.